CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

converting a plurality of data requests for messaging and collaboration data into a single higher level request in an enterprise gateway server;

transmiting the higher level request over a data network;

receiving the higher level request in a remote gateway server;

converting the higher level request to the plurality of data requests; and

providing messaging and collaboration data from the remote gateway server to the enterprise gateway server in response to receiving the plurality of data requests.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data network is a public network.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data transmitted over the public network is encrypted so as to form a virtual private network (VPN).

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the VPN is formed with a Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP) connection.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the VPN is formed using the Internet Protocol Security (IPSEC) standard.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the messaging and collaboration data is one of email, calendar, or contact information.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the data network is a private network.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the single higher level request is produced by a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) proxy program.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) stub program receives the higher level request and converts the higher level request to the plurality of data requests.

10. A computer-readable medium embodying a method, the method comprising:

converting a plurality of data requests for messaging and collaboration data into a single higher level request in an enterprise gateway server;

transmiting the higher level request over a data network;

receiving the higher level request in a remote gateway server;

converting the higher level request to the plurality of data requests; and

providing messaging and collaboration data from the remote gateway server to the enterprise gateway server in response to receiving the plurality of data requests.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the data network is a public network.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the data transmitted over the public network is encrypted so as to form a virtual private network (VPN).

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the VPN is formed with a Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP) connection.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the VPN is formed using the Internet Protocol Security (IPSEC) standard.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the messaging and collaboration data is one of email, calendar, or contact information.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the data network is a private network.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the single higher level request is produced by a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) proxy program.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) stub program receives the higher level request and converts the higher level request to the plurality of data requests.